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Executive Registry
74-2428

Office of the Director
of Central Intelligence

NIO
National Intelligence Officers

DATE: 10 April 1974

TO: The Director

SUBJECT: NID Story

Mr. Colby,

Re this morning's top right NID story, "Controversy in Kremlin on Middle East":

May I caution you that in my opinion the piece's conclusions are overdrawn for the evidence.

Brezhnev's strength does shift periodically, within tolerable limits, and in a week or a month John and I may be telling you that we see some erosion of his support and corresponding constraints on his detente maneuverability. At the moment, however, Brezhnev's position continues to look strong and stable.

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In past shaky periods (last September was the most recent), there have been several kinds of signals, and I myself would require

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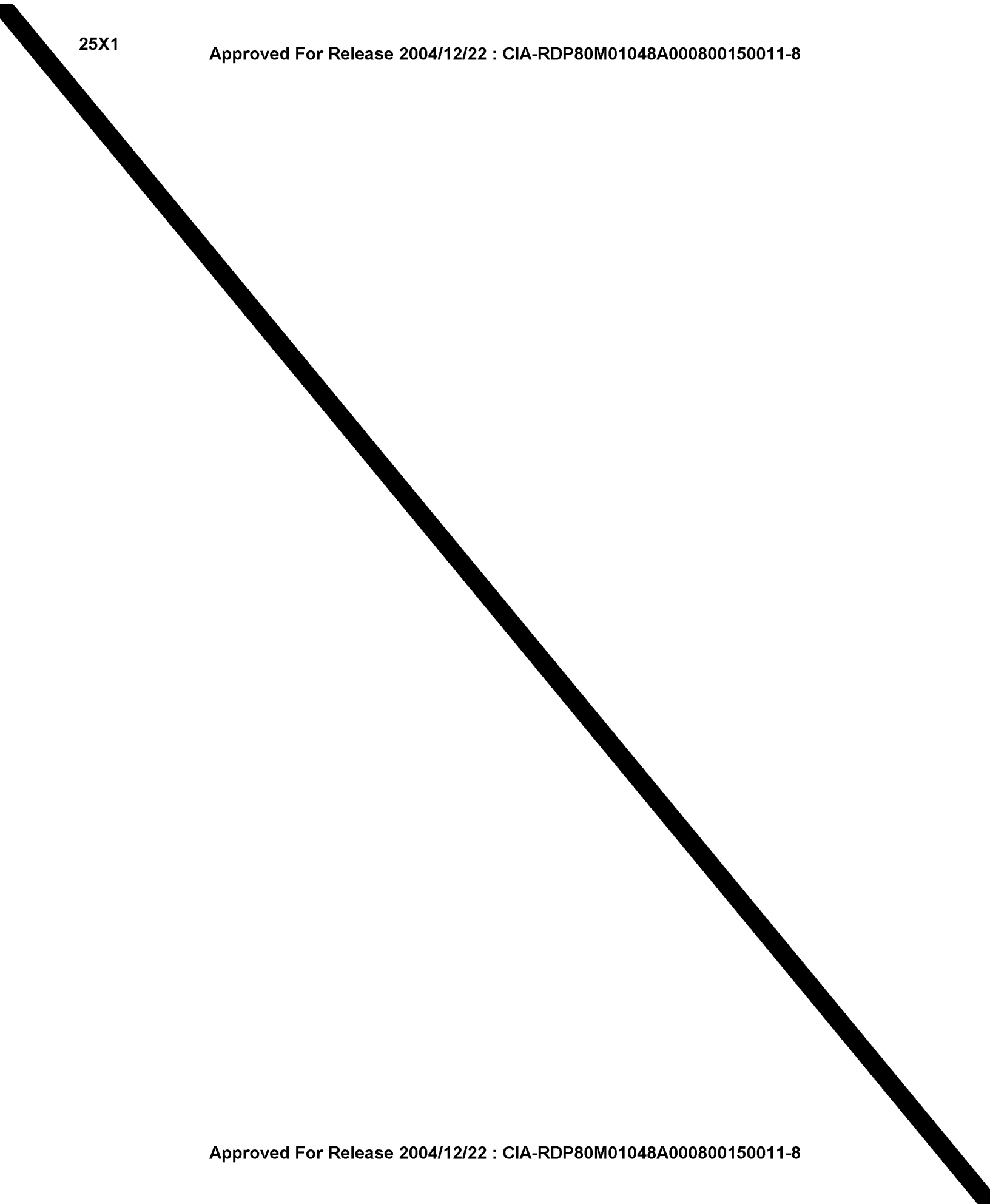

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